

## FERRY SAYS AUTOMATIC PHONE OFFICIALS TRIED TO BLOCK COUNT OF SUBSCRIBERS

S. W. Tracy, vice-president Illinois Telephone & Telegraph Co., and other officials of that company, tried to hide records wanted by the public service department making a count of automatic phones, according to Montague Ferry. The count has shown that out of more than 24,000 names in the automatic phone directory less than 14,883 are bona-fide subscribers.

How Vice President Tracy and others tried to snag and hold back the count and smear it over as inaccurate or improper is told in Public Service Commissioner Ferry's report of the count. Though the company exists through a franchise granted by the city and has its wires laid under city streets, Tracy and his crowd acted as though Ferry and the city inspectors were butting in and behaving wrong when they came to look at records and exchanges.

"The department of public service had not had the full co-operation of the Illinois Telephone & Telegraph Co.," writes Ferry. "This delayed the work of the count."

Written notice was served on Tracy Oct. 8 that the city council had ordered the count made and city inspectors wanted to see the company's records. It was not until Nov. 21 that city men were allowed to go into the phone exchanges. It was not until Dec. 11, after more sparring and jiggling around, that Tracy gave city men permission to look over the company's records.

From Oct. 8 till Nov. 21 Ferry and his men kept on tackling Tracy for a nopen door. But Tracy kept the door shut, stalled off all inspectors and said he was waiting for advice from his lawyers. Not until the council gas-oil committee sent Dan Schuyler, the phone company lawyer, a notice that the committee demanded the company give free access to all records did Tracy come across.

On Nov. 30 Tracy sent to Ferry charges that one of Ferry's men had made "derogatory remarks" and advised patrons not to pay their bills to the phone company. The investigator was laid off and afterwards put back by Ferry when it was found that not one of the charges made by Tracy had any foundation. In each case the phone subscriber concerned made a signed statement that the investigator had not made the "derogatory remarks" complained of. Ferry cites each complaint and his proof of its untruth in each case and then in a letter to Tracy, the head man of the automatic phone system of Chicago, writes:

"Out of a total of six complaints, therefore, your company scores 100 per cent in statements contrary to fact. The net result is testimony to the efficient work done by the inspectors who have called on thousands of subscribers and not caused a single bona fide complaint. If out of such a number of visits as many as 200 or 300 complaints had been received it would not have been extraordinary.

### —o—o— SUSPICIOUS

The rural lad emerged from the woods one day and was walking along the road when he saw an automobile for the first time. The thing didn't look natural to him and he started down the middle of the road at a speed that made the automobile burn gasoline to keep him in sight.

"Won't do nothin' o' the kind!" defiantly called back the native.

"What's that?" indignantly cried the chauffeur, still working the horn. "Do you mean to tell me you won't get out of the road?"

"That's jes' what I said!" cried the speeding native. "Ye want ter get me over in that plowed ground where ye kin ketch me!"—Philadelphia Telegraph.